

Wycombe spirit lives

By David Emery: Bedford 2 Wycombe 2

THE spirit that carried Wycombe on their glory run in last season's F.A. Cup last night kept them alive in this year's competition.

Two first half goals had sent Bedford cruising optimistically towards a second round tie at Cardiff in front of their biggest crowd for years. Then Wycombe, who gave Middlesbrough the scare of their lives 10 months ago, took hold of the game to stage a storming come-back.

Even extra time could not separate these gallant part-timers who ran themselves to the point of exhaustion and now a second replay will be held at Wycombe.

Bedford needed just three minutes to break the deadlock of Saturday's goalless draw. A shot from Peter Phillips, the former Luton striker, hit full-back Dave Bullock on the line but referee Clive White, right on the spot, immediately awarded a goal.

Fifteen minutes before half-time Bedford were two up as Bobby Folds smashed a 20-yard free kick home.

It looked all over. But four minutes after half-time big John Delaney stunned the crowd sheltering in the shadow of the massive brewery flanking the ground with a ferocious shot that showed Wanderers' spirit still lived.

Tony Horseman, Wycombe's veteran striker who has already scored 18 goals this season, completed the fightback when he put home the equaliser 11 minutes from time.

● Grantham, the other non-Leaguers contesting a second round place last night were a goal up in 12 minutes through Bob Norris at Port Vale but were then shattered by two goals in two minutes from Derek Brownbill as Vale cruised through 4-1.

● Wrexham, with Welsh European heroes Arfon Griffiths and Derek Lloyd in top form, earned a second replay after extra time against Mansfield.